

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5036

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CNO

CINCPAC

COMSEVENTHFLT

CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT SEVEN

USS ENTERPRISE

USS CAMDEN

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MP

SUBJECT: MAURITIAN DISASTER RELIEF -- PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE

COMMENTS

CNO AND CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLADS

1. AUSTRALIAN PETER WHITE, LOCAL SUGAR MAGNATE AND REPRESENTATIVE OF LONRHO, LARGE UK-BASED MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATION, HAD TWO OPPORTUNITIES IN LAST WEEK TO HEAR PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM EXPOUND ON US DISASTER RELIEF AID TO MAURITIUS: ONE, DURING LONG PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN RAMGOOLAM AND LONRHO PRESIDENT ROLAND; THE OTHER, DURING GOM COORDINATING CONFERENCE WITH ABOUT 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL GOM CENTRAL AND LOCAL OFFICIALS AS WELL AS PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS.

2. WHITE SAID ON BOTH OCCASIONS RAMGOOLAM SPOKE AT LENGTH IN WARMEST TERMS ABOUT EFFECTIVENESS, EFFICIENCY AND SPONTANEITY OF US AID EFFORTS. ACCORDING TO WHITE, AT LATTER MEETING

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RAMGOOLAM THEN LITERALLY BLEW HIS STACK ABOUT FAILURE OF MANY

MAURITIANS TO PITCH IN AND WORK AS HARD AS THE AMERICANS DID, CHARACTERIZING AS "SHAMEFUL" THE IDLENESS OF MANY MAURITIAN ONLOOKERS WHILE THE AMERICANS WORKED SO WELL AND SO HARD.

3. AT NOON TODAY PRIME MINISTER HAS ASKED ME TO SIGN WITH HIM SEVERAL US ASSISTANCE PROJECTS FOR FAMILY PLANNING WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED BEFORE CYCLONE GERVAISE. SIGNING CEREMONY WILL NO DOUBT BE COVERED BY LOCAL MEDIA AND I HOPE TO HAVE CHANCE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO STRENUOUS GOM EFFORTS TO UTILIZE OUR DISASTER RELIEF AID PROMPTLY AND EFFECTIVELY AND TO THE MANY MAURITIANS WHO ACTUALLY WORKED HARD WITH OUR NAVY TEAMS AND ON THEIR OWN TO SPEED THE RECOVERY OF MAURITIUS.

MANHARD

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